Message Text

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P 180049Z FEB 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

SECRETSTATE 038217

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, KS

SUBJECT: US-ROK SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

REF: (A) SEOUL 0900 (B) SEOUL 0550 (C) SEOUL 0658 (D) TOKYO 2261

1. YOU MAY INFORM MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CHOE NYUNG-SUP THAT ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER AND OTHER APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON IN LATE APRIL TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS SECRET

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ON FUTURE SCIENCE AND ENERGY COOPERATION. PLEASE INFORM US

OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS ONCE DATES ARE FIRM.

- 2. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF POSSIBLE SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION OUTLINED IN JANUARY 24 RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS, ERDA IS IN FINAL STAGES OF ARRANGING FOR REACTIVATION OF SISTER LABORATORY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KAERI AND ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY. A LETTER TO MINISTER CHOE TRANSMITTING A DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WILL BE POUCHED TO EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY SHORTLY. EMBASSY MAY INFORM ROKG OF FOREGOING.
- 3. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NRC REGARDING THE QUESTION OF REACTOR SAFETY AND REGULATORY COOPERATION. NRC

COMMISSIONER EDWARD MASON PLANS TO BE IN THE FAR EAST IN MID-MARCH AND HAS AGREED TO STOP IN SEOUL, IF ROKG INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING SAFETY AND REGULATORY QUESTIONS WITH HIM. PROPOSED ITINERARY BEING SENT SEPTEL, BUT HE CAN BE SEOUL ON MARCH 20 AND AVAILABLE TO REVIEW POSSIBLE FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS IN THIS FIELD WITH APPROPRIATE KOREAN OFFICIALS. PLEASE CONFIRM ROKG INTEREST IN THIS VISIT.

4. BEGIN FYI. WE ARE ALSO REVIEWING OTHER FEATURES OF THE RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND WILL KEEP YOU APPRISED OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS WE MAY TAKE. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH CHOE IN APRIL, BUT WHATEVER POSSIBLE MECHANISM IS ESTABLISHED, OUR INVOLVEMENT WILL NOT BE AT THE MIN-ISTERIAL LEVEL. WE ARE ALSO EXAMINING WHAT WE MIGHT DO TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE ROK AND PRIVATE US FIRMS. AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EX-IM BANK REGARDING POSSIBLE CREDITS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REACTOR SIMULATOR. ON FUEL FABRICATION, WE PLAN TO REVIEW PO SIBILITIES WITH SEVERAL US COMPANIES, BEARING IN MIND EXISTING FRENCH-ROK ARRANGEMENTS. FINALLY, WE HOPE TO HAVE A DRAFT GENERAL AGREEMENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE IN TIME FOR THE APRIL MEETING IN WASHINGTON. IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION, HOWEVER, TO FINALIZE IT IN APRIL, BUT RATHER TO PRESENT IT TO CHOE AS THE BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, AND SECRET

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AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT OUR OVERALL TACTICS IN THIS EXERCISE ARE TO DEMONSTRATE POSITIVE FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THESE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF FUTURE SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION ON GRADUAL BASIS. END FYI.

5. REF. D INDICATES TOKYO SCI REP WILL MEET IN SEOUL ON FEBRUARY 24-26 WITH ROKG OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS INCREASED ROK-US TECHNICAL COOPERATION. REQUEST CLARIFICATION.

TOKYO: PASS TO ERDA REP HENOCH INGERSOLL

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